



WILDWOOD CONNECTION

COMMISSIONER'S CORNER: PAMALA HARRISON-BIVINS

This month we talk with Wildwood Commissioner and Mayor Pro Tem Pamala Harrison-Bivins to learn a little more about her and her role as one of the city's five elected officials.

How long have you lived in Wildwood?

I was born here, attended school in Wildwood, and have lived here most of my life.

What's one of your favorite things about the city?

Progress, especially when I think back to when I was a young girl and look at how far Wildwood has come since then.

How long have you served on the city commission?

I was first sworn in as commissioner in 2000.

What motivated you to run for the position?

I recognized the commission had no women and very little diversity at that time, and I thought it would be good for the city to have representation from a different demographic, a different way of looking at things, and a different approach to problem-solving.

What unique experience and perspective do you bring to the position?

My professional background and training include serving as Duke Energy's diversity and inclusion facilitator, which taught me a great deal about understanding different people, their backgrounds, and their belief systems.

In addition, my seminary training enhanced my compassion and ability to respect all other individuals, regardless of their position in society, and to respect them and their opinions, even when I don't agree. It's a critical skill set to have as a commissioner making decisions about the city.

How has the job changed since you began?

Staffing has made a positive difference. Getting the right fit and mix of leadership can be challenging, but I believe we have accomplished it, particularly with our city manager and chief of police.

As a city, we must include, embrace, and represent all our residents, no matter what labels society gives them. We need to remain progressive as we move forward and grow, and I think now we have the right staff in the right places to do that.

You serve as mayor pro tem—what are your duties in that role?

To carry out the duties of the mayor in his absence.

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Photos at right, from top to bottom:

- *Being sworn in with Mayor Wolf (left) and Commissioner Flores*
- *Presenting the Omari "Mari" Day proclamation*
- *Celebrating International Women's Day with other female city leaders*





WILDWOOD KICKS OFF SUMMER VACATION SEASON WITH A SPLASH

Commissioner Pamala Harrison-Bivins was all smiles as she cut the ribbon June 3, 2023, on the city's highly-anticipated splash pad at Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Park, 600 Walker Road.

"This has been a dream of mine for a long time," she told the group waiting to enjoy the new facility. "When we first started talking about it all those years ago, I asked for a mist machine our residents could use to cool off in the summer heat. We've come a long way, Wildwood!"

Joined by Mayor Ed Wolf, at right in above photo, and Commissioner Joe Elliott, the three elected city officials celebrated the milestone and watched local children delight in the interactive water feature.

The splash pad is now open daily, Tuesday through Sunday from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., and Monday from noon to 6:00 p.m.

For more information about the pad, and other Wildwood Parks and Recreation facilities and events, visit wildwood-fl.gov/parksrec and click on Recreation Programs.



COMMISSIONER'S CORNER: PAMALA HARRISON-BIVINS

(continued from Page 1)

What are your proudest accomplishments as an elected official?

There are several, and they all relate to the issues I ran on back in 2000: doing more for our children and seniors.

I believe we need to provide continuity and structure for our young people, particularly those between the ages of 12 and 16. That's a time when many programs for kids end but they aren't yet old enough to get a job, and it's a make-or-break age that largely determines how they choose to focus and direct their energy for the rest of their lives. We have an opportunity as a city to significantly contribute to and foster our next generation of leaders.

I'm proud that we've improved our focus and attention on facilities in West Wildwood. Our Jackson Street Community Center now houses a variety of activities for youth and seniors. The new splash pad at Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Park is a dream of mine that goes back so many years and has finally become a reality. The new outreach center planned for that park is going to be a complete game-changer for our children, teens, seniors, and adults of all ages. It's going to be an incredible facility for everyone.

How have the city's landscape and population changed since you've been a commissioner?

The south limits have extended far beyond what I could have imagined or would have believed when I first took office in 2000.

How does that growth guide the city's initiatives?

We need to make sure we have things in place to handle our current and future growth. Not only do we need to plan for our residents' enrichment and enjoyment, we also need to stay ahead with our infrastructure.

Tell us about some projects underway or planned that you feel most excited about, and why you believe these are important.

The new outreach center tops the list. It's not just because it provides space for basketball and other sports and activities that we currently can't offer in existing facilities, but it will have space for study and learning. Not every child has Internet access at home, believe it or not. The school can give them a computer to do their homework, but if they can't connect, they can't use it and can't complete their assignments. The center will give them a chance to be successful. It also will have an indoor track so people of all ages have a safe place to exercise any time of day in any season, regardless of the temperature or weather.

What would you like to see in Wildwood's future that isn't currently being addressed?

I think we are planning well. Wildwood has a long-range comprehensive plan as well as a five-year strategic plan that is updated regularly. It has a capital improvements plan, too. We are doing a great job being proactive, preparing for continued progress.

Is there anything else you would like residents to know?

I want to encourage Wildwood's citizens to know our city and all it has to offer. Take time to really explore our website and learn about all the information there, from our form of government and how it works, to our budget, to our various facilities and programming. Read our citizens newsletters and follow us on Facebook to learn what is happening. Attend meetings and take an active role in the process.

We've come a long way in the past 20 years, and we've got a very bright future ahead of us. Contribute to our continued progress and success.

WILDWOOD'S PAVEMENT MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Wildwood's Department of Public Works is responsible for approximately 100 centerline miles of roads, with a goal of maintaining an average Pavement Condition Index (PCI) network rating of 82 based on a standardized scale of 0 (worst) to 100 (best or new).

Pavement management is complex; each road segment is monitored and its condition analyzed to determine the most effective, cost-efficient treatments to maintain quality, extend life, and protect taxpayer investment.

Treatments include traditional mill and overlay (M&O), as well as micro surfacing (MS) and full-depth reclamation (FDR). Each offers advantages for specific situations. A specialized algorithm, along with engineering assessments, helps establish the city's approved Pavement Management Plan.

Introduced from Germany in 1980, MS is a cold-mix paving system now used throughout the United States. It combines high-quality aggregates with polymer-modified asphalt emulsion to create a long-lasting, high-performance wearing course. Ideal for roads that have started to show signs of aging, cracking, oxidation, and other minor distressing, it delays the need for more expensive techniques and reduces inconvenience to the public, as traffic typically can be returned to the area within an hour of laying.

FDR mixes the existing asphalt surface course with underlying base or sub-base materials, then adds stabilizing agents to create new water-resistant, flexible, stabilized base of 6-12 inches. Compared to removing and bringing in new material, the process not only saves money, it is also environmentally friendly.

Photos at left show Walker Road (CR 213) after the completion of FDR.



Wildwood streets identified for treatments this year appear below, and are tentatively scheduled to be completed by the end July, weather permitting.

Residents will be notified before work begins via a door flyer distributed to each resident on the street being treated.

- Arnold Ct.: Wildwood to Arnold cul-de-sac (M&O)
- Fifth St.: Mill to Ross (MS)
- Fourth St.: W. Clarke to Oak (MS)
- Gray Ave.: Cleveland to Barwick (FDR)
- Lee St.: Jarrell to E. Clarke (MS)
- Meadow St.: Meadow to Wildwood (MS)
- Mill St.: Fifth to Fourth (MS)
- Mission Dr.: N. Warfield to Gray (MS)
- Oak St.: Fourth to Jackson (MS)
- Old 44A.: Roy to CR 44A (MS)
- Osceola Ave.: N. Warfield to Gray (MS)
- Pine Ct.: Meadow to cul-de-sac (MS)
- Pitt St.: Oak to Stone (MS)
- Roy St.: Old 44A to end across RR tracks (MS)
- Stewart St.: Barwick to Osceola (M&O)
- Stone St.: Fourth to Pitt (MS)
- Walker Rd./CR 213: SR 44 to CR 238 (FDR)
- Wildwood Ave.: Broken Oak to Woodlane (MS)
- Wilson St.: Fourth to Jackson (MS)
- Woodlane Ave.: Broken Oak to Wildwood (MS)



KEEPING WILDWOOD BEAUTIFUL

On Saturday, June 3, 2023, the Wildwood Street Sweepers community group, shown above, collected more than two pickup trucks full of trash and debris that was littering street right-of-way zones along Huey St., Warfield Ave., St. Clair St., and Barwick St.

"I'm thrilled with the dedication of our volunteers," said Wildwood Code Compliance Manager Tara Tradd, who facilitates the group, "but I'm also disappointed there is so much litter and junk left by others who don't pick up after themselves or take pride in this lovely community."

The Street Sweepers have an application pending to become a Keep America Beautiful affiliate. As the group of volunteers grows, it plans to expand initiatives to beautification projects such as planting and painting to further enhance city aesthetics.

Contact TTradd@wildwood-fl.gov or 352-661-6067 to learn more.

SAFELY SHARING THE ROAD

Wildwood’s abundant sunshine, scenic roads, and many new miles of pavement provide attractive bicycling opportunities for residents. Cycling is a low-impact form of exercise that can help achieve both cardiovascular and strength training recommendations.

The Villages® is home to multiple cycling groups, which often can be seen along routes through the city. Children, out of school for the summer, also are riding bicycles throughout town, as are many other residents using bicycles for transportation and/or exercise.

According to Florida Statute Section 316.2065, bicyclists have the same rights and responsibilities applicable to other vehicles unless otherwise noted in statute.

Among those rights are use of the same roads as motorized vehicles. Shared responsibilities include, but are not limited to, obeying all traffic signs, signals, and laws.

Tragically, Florida leads the nation in bicycling fatalities. Cycling’s growing popularity in Wildwood increases interaction between motorized and nonmotorized vehicles, and emphasizes the need for heightened awareness by every operator, regardless of vehicle type.

Motorists must be as vigilant in looking for bicyclists (and pedestrians) as for other motorists. Similarly, cyclists must constantly look for motorists, pedestrians, and other cyclists to prevent accidents.

Speed is an enormous factor in the severity of injury. At 10 mph, there is a 10% risk of cyclist or pedestrian fatality upon impact, according to FDOT’s AlertTodayFlorida.com. At 40, the risk triples. At 50 mph, the risk a cyclist or pedestrian will be killed increases to 85%.

Properly fitted helmets reduce risk of serious injury. Florida law requires cyclists 16 or younger to wear a bicycle helmet, and failure to do so can result in a citation. (Wildwood’s Police Department offers free, fitted helmets by appointment. Contact communityoutreach@wildwood-fl.gov to schedule.)

Regardless of who may be at fault legally, the consequences of a fatal accident are dire, and leave profound scars on everyone involved, including survivors and their families.

As the operator of any vehicle, follow these tips:

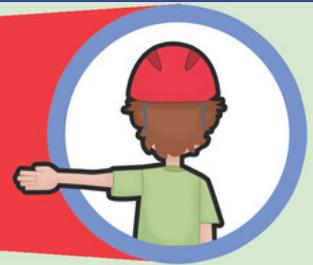
- Pay attention at all times.
- Never text while driving or cycling.
- Do not drink or use substances that impair judgement, reaction time, or mental/physical coordination. Cyclists and motorists alike can be cited for DUI.
- Come to a complete stop at every stop sign and red light, stopping at the stop line on the road—do not stop past the line or in a crosswalk. Always look both left and right, including when making a legal right-on-red turn. Cyclists and pedestrians may be in your path.
- Do not speed. Allow enough travel time to obey speed limits and traffic laws, plus extra for unanticipated delays.
- Know hand signals. When cycling, use them every time they apply. When driving, look for them and understand what they mean.
- Be extra alert at dawn, dusk, and when it is dark.
- Share the road responsibly and courteously.

Safety is incumbent upon everyone who shares the road. Know and obey all traffic laws and eliminate distractions when operating any kind of vehicle.

Working together, we can all make our community safer and more enjoyable for all.

BICYCLE HAND SIGNALS

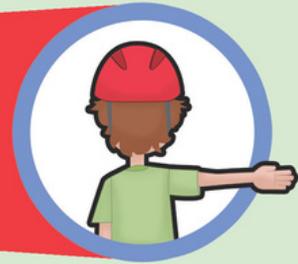
Left Turn
Extend your left arm sideways.



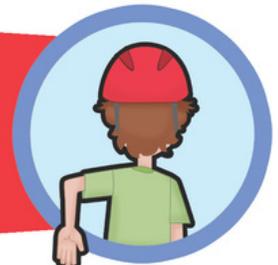
Right Turn
Extend your left arm sideways, arm bent 90 degrees at elbow, hand pointing upward with palm facing forward.



Alternative Right Turn
Extend your right arm sideways.



Stopping or Slowing
Extend your left arm sideways, arm bent 90 degrees at elbow, hand pointing downward with palm facing backward.



www.AlertTodayFlorida.com



IT STARTS IN PARKS

HEALTH • COMMUNITY • ECONOMY • ENVIRONMENT

City of Wildwood Proudly Celebrates

NATIONAL PARKS & REC MONTH

Month-long scavenger hunt, activities, giveaways, and more!



July 2023

@Parks/Rec & Special Events Wildwood FL

Follow our page for weekly clues!

352-461-0134 parksandrec@wildwood-fl.gov

PARKS AND RECREATION SPECIAL EVENTS

For more programs, activities, and events, visit wildwood-fl.gov/parksrec and click on Recreation Programs.

City of Wildwood proudly presents

HAPPY BIRTHDAY AMERICA

FOOD TRUCKS, BIERGARTEN SPONSORED BY WASTE MANAGEMENT, KID ZONE, LIVE MUSIC, & FIREWORKS SHOW

MONDAY, JULY 3RD
5:00P - 9:00P

Millennium Park
1300 Huey Street

For questions or to register as a vendor, please call 352-461-0134 or email parksandrec@wildwood-fl.gov

WILDWOOD FLORIDA PARKS & RECREATION

Back-to-School Shoe Drive & Summer Bash 2023

VENDORS - FOOD TRUCKS - GAMES
- BOUNCE HOUSES

- July 22nd, 10am - 1pm
- Free Registration
- Shoe & School Supply Giveaways

Wildwood Community Center
6500 Powell Rd., Wildwood, FL 34785

JOIN WILDWOOD PARKS & REC AND UNITED CHURCH AS WE SEND THE SUMMER OFF WITH A BANG!

Scan the QR code below for more information and to register to receive your new pair of shoes!

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Code Compliance

July 11, 2023
1:00 p.m.

Local Planning Agency

July 11, 2023
2:00 p.m.

Planning and Zoning

July 11, 2023
2:15 p.m.

City Commission

July 10, 2023
9:00 a.m.
July 17, 2023 (workshop)
9:00 a.m.
June 24, 2023
7:00 p.m.

Project Review Committee

July meeting
canceled.

General Information

Unless otherwise specified, all meetings are held at City Hall, 100 N. Main St.

Agendas and minutes are posted on the city's website. Go to www.wildwood-fl.gov and click on [Agenda](#).

Meetings are open to the public. Attend in person or remotely by going to the city website and clicking on [Government > Attend a Meeting Virtually](#).

Anyone wishing to speak during Public Forum should submit a comment card before the meeting begins.



A LOOK AT WILDWOOD HISTORY

This photo shows Wildwood City Hall in 1958. The building served the community until 2000, when Wildwood's current City Hall was built.

Photo courtesy of Gidget Gibson and Wildwood Memories.

GROW WITH US: CITY CAREERS

Working for Wildwood is more than just a job. The city offers long-term career opportunities along with a great benefits package.

Leadership regularly reviews compensation plans to ensure they remain competitive and recognize strong performance.

Employees work hard and have fun doing it, in an environment that focuses on superior, friendly service with a strong sense of community.

See current openings and submit a streamlined application at www.wildwood-fl.gov/hr.

STAY UP TO DATE ON CITY HAPPENINGS

You can keep up with Wildwood news and happenings in a variety of ways:

1. Check wildwood-fl.gov for general information.
2. Sign up for **notifications** at wildwood-fl.gov to have news delivered directly to your inbox.
3. Follow us on **Facebook** and get news in your feed:
 - City of Wildwood page: facebook.com/WildwoodFlorida
 - Parks and Recreation Special Events page: facebook.com/WildwoodParksRecEvents
 - Police Department page: facebook.com/WildwoodPoliceFL

CITY INFORMATION

Commission

Ed Wolf
Mayor
ewolf@wildwood-fl.gov

Pamala Harrison-Bivins
Mayor Pro Tem
pbivins@wildwood-fl.gov

Joe Elliott
Commissioner
jelliott@wildwood-fl.gov

Marcos Flores
Commissioner
mflores@wildwood-fl.gov

Julian Green
Commissioner
jgreen@wildwood-fl.gov

City Hall

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Wildwood, FL 34785
352-330-1330
www.wildwood-fl.gov
facebook.com/WildwoodFlorida

Directory

City Manager
Jason McHugh
352-330-1332
jmchugh@wildwood-fl.gov

Development Services
352-330-1334

Human Resources
352-330-1340

Parks and Recreation
352-461-0134

Police (Non-Emergency)
352-330-1355

Police (Emergency)
911

Public Works
352-330-1343

Utilities
352-330-1336